



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

|  |               |                      |                     |                  |
|--|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/731,079   | 12/09/2003    | Douglas R. Fish      | ROC920030190US1     | 3767             |
| 46797  | 7590          | 06/23/2010           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW<br>DEPT 917, BLDG. 006-1<br>3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH<br>ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829 |               |                      | BETIT, JACOB F      |                  |
| ART UNIT   | PAPER NUMBER  |                      |                     | 2169             |
| MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |                      |                     |                  |
| 06/23/2010   | PAPER         |                      |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |                                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/731,079 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>FISH ET AL. |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Jacob F. Bétit    | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2169            |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Board Decision mailed 2/24/2010.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-13 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-13 and 15-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Remarks***

1. In response to the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) dated 24 February 2010, a new rejection for claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12, 13, 15-20 is set out below. The rejection for claims 9-11 is repeated herein.
2. In response to this action, applicant should cancel claims 9-11 as directed by the BPAI on page 8 of the Decision.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 12, 13, 15, and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:  
Claim 12 contains two periods. "Each Claim begins with a capital letter and ends with a period. Periods may not be used elsewhere in the claims except for abbreviations. See MPEP §608.01(m) (citing Fressola v. Manbeck, 36 USPQ2d 1211 (D.D.C. 1995)). Applicant should remove the period from the body of the claim.

Claims 13, 15, and 16 are objected to for depending from objected to claim 12.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 12-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

*Cragun et al.* (U.S. patent application publication No. 2005/0125447 A1).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As to claim 1, *Cragun et al.* teaches a method for providing annotation information for a set of data (title = "Including annotation data with disparate relational data), comprising:

querying an annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (paragraph 0020, "annotation store may be queried to identify annotations for data objects in a current view of data"),

each annotation record associated with a portion of the set of data and having one or more annotation fields (paragraph 0031, "annotations associated with various portions of data view" and 0052, "multiple annotations exist for a single object"),

wherein the set of data is a relational table containing query results (see paragraph 0022, "views of tabular data arranged in rows and columns" and "views of query results generated in response to issuing a query");

generating a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the annotation records (paragraph 0043 "in the case the primary keys were not a part of the results set specified for the original query, the query may be modified to add primary keys to the result set" and paragraph 0044 "annotation information is retrieved, based on the primary key and the data source";

consolidating data contained in the annotation fields (paragraph 0052, "if multiple annotations exist for a single object, a single icon indicating the multiple annotations ... may be displayed");

returning an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and a field containing the consolidated data (paragraph 0053, "user may be able to view a limited amount of information regarding an annotation... a global unique identifier identifying the corresponding annotation may be retained, which may facilitate retrieving the entire annotation when requested by a user display"); and

joining the annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated linking value (paragraph 0054, "identifying and indicating annotations for displayed data... an indication of the annotated data objects may be provided" and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 2, *Cragun et al.* teaches further comprising returning the set of data with the annotation data structure (see paragraphs 0052-53).

As to claim 4, *Cragun et al.* teaches comprising joining the annotation data structure with the set of data prior to returning the annotation data structure (see paragraph 0054).

As to claim 5, *Cragun et al.* teaches wherein the linking value comprises primary key data (see paragraph 0044).

As to claim 6, *Cragun et al.* teaches wherein the primary key data comprises compound primary key data involving at least two fields (see paragraphs 0041 and 0044).

As to claim 7, *Cragun et al.* teaches further comprising receiving a query to retrieve the annotation data, the query identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the annotation records (see paragraph 0020).

As to claim 8, *Cragun et al.* teaches further comprising:  
receiving a query to retrieve the set of data (see paragraph 0037); and  
issuing the query against a data source separate from the annotation store to retrieve the set of data (see paragraphs 0020 and 0037).

As to claim 12, *Cragun et al.* a computer-readable storage medium containing a program for returning annotation data which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

querying an annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (see paragraph 0020), each annotation record associated with a portion of the set of data and having one or more annotation fields (see paragraphs 0031 and 0052), wherein the set of data is a relational table containing query results (see paragraph 0022);

generating a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the annotation records (see paragraphs 0043-44);

consolidating data contained in the annotation fields (see paragraph 0052);

returning an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and a field containing the consolidated data (see paragraph 0053); and

joining the annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated linking value (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 13, please see the citations for claim 2 above.

As to claim 15, please see the citations for claim 7 above.

As to claim 16, please see the citations for claim 8 above.

As to claim 17, *Cragun et al.* a system for providing annotation information for set of data comprising a relational table containing query results, comprising:

an annotation database for storing annotation records containing annotation data (see figure 1, reference number 139, "Annotation Database"); and

an executable component configured to query the annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (see paragraph 0020), each annotation record associated with a portion of the

set of data and having one or more annotation fields (see paragraphs 0031 and 0052), generate a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the annotation records (see paragraphs 0043-44), consolidate data contained in the annotation fields (see paragraph 0052), return an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and a field containing the consolidated data (see paragraph 0053), and join the consolidated annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated linking value (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 18, please see the citations for claim 2 above.

As to claim 19, *Cragun et al.* teaches wherein the executable component is further configured to retrieve the set of data from a data source separate from the annotation store (see paragraph 0054).

As to claim 20, *Cragun et al.* teaches wherein the executable component is further configured to join the consolidated annotation data with the set of data, using the linking value, prior to returning the set of data with the annotation structure (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

6. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C (a) as being anticipated by Bays (U.S. patent No. 6,519,603)

As to claim 9, *Bays* teaches method for providing user data and corresponding annotation data, comprising:

receiving, from a requesting entity, a query to return the user data (see figure 1A items 20 and 25 and see column 4, lines 25-31);

retrieving the user data from a data source (see column 2, lines 30-37);

retrieving, from an annotation store, one or more annotation records associated with the one or more annotated portions of the user data (see column 2, lines 53-59);

consolidating annotation data contained in the annotation records (see column 11, lines 22-24);

joining the consolidated annotation data with the user data to generate a data structure containing the consolidated data (see column 6, lines 61-66); and

returning, to the requesting entity, the generated data structure (see column 4, lines 34-36).

As to claim 10, *Bays* teaches further comprising generating one or more linking values identifying the one or more annotated portions of the user data (see column 3, lines 48-53).

As to claim 11, *Bays* teaches wherein the linking values are utilized in the joining (see column 6, lines 61-66 and column 4, lines 34-36).

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob F. Bétit whose telephone number is (571)272-4075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on (571) 272-4078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Jacob F Bétit/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2169

jfb  
22 Apr 2010

/Wendy Garber/  
Director, Technology Center 2100